

# Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1860.

## Another Turn of the Screw.

The decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday in several cases involving the constitutionality of the election laws are another stride in the march of our Government towards a consolidated central despotism. The brief statement in our issue of yesterday of the effect or substance of these decisions tells enough to enable every one familiar with the matters in dispute to draw correct conclusions concerning their nature. They provide a way for subjecting even the legislatures of the several States to the supervisory power of Congress, and ultimately of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The court in its opinion quotes as sufficient justification for its decisions the following extract from the Constitution of the United States:

"The times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the place of choosing senators."

It is easy to see that if Congress may appoint supervisors of election to oversee the State officers in the discharge of their duties when they are conducting elections for representatives in the lower house of Congress, that body may also appoint supervisors to oversee the election of United States senators by the legislatures of the several States. The provision which the court quotes to prove the power of Congress in this case is framed in such words as to make it contain all that any judge on the bench of the Supreme Court would have it contain, seeing that it expressly declares that Congress shall have no power to name or change "the place of choosing senators." It is evident, therefore, will say whenever the question shall arise before that most potent of all the Federal tribunals in the wide world, "it is evident that Congress has power to make any provision concerning the election of United States senators which it can make concerning the election of members of the House of Representatives, except as to the place of choosing senators. Now, as we have already decided over and over again that Congress may provide for the appointment of officials to supervise the election of the representatives, it necessarily follows that it may provide for the appointment of officials to supervise the election of United States senators."

But the decision goes even further: It holds that Congress may provide for the punishment of State officers who fail to perform such duties as Congress may choose to impose upon them in connection with the discharge of their duties as State officers of election, conducting elections for members of Congress. Of course, then, it may impose similar duties upon the Clerk, the Speaker, the tellers, and the other State officials in the Legislature who may be in office when a United States senator is to be elected. Mr. Speaker LACY may be sent to the penitentiary, as were the State officials in Cincinnati and Baltimore who failed to perform certain duties imposed upon them by Congress in the manner in which particular judges thought they ought to be performed.

And yet, as we said about the decisions of last week, so we may say of these, that the *newspaper* people will applaud the court that rendered them. Even the *New York World*, nominally a Democratic paper, said last week that it could see nothing wrong in the former decisions!

What hope, we repeat, is there for the country? None at all, unless the Empire shall be kept off by the election next November of a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress.

Who in Virginia will dare to stand up for an unpledged electoral ticket under circumstances such as those in which the country now finds itself?

**A New Novel.** *Lillian Fairfax*. Cincinnati: Peter G. THOMSON, 1860.

"Her Ladyship," *Lillian Fairfax*, who is the heroine of the story, belonged to the old Virginian family of that name. A little below the medium height, she was a typical blonde, with exquisitely modified features, dreamy blue eyes, and a profusion of wavy, flaxen hair. A true Saxon beauty was my lady, showing all the traces of the FAIRFAX stock, even to the color of her hair, for FAIRFAX signifies fair hair." She was a sad little rebel, living with her widowed Aunt FLORENCE and the latter's son, JACQUES FLORENCE, who had lost an arm in the Confederate service.

Price, \$1.25. For sale by RANDOLPH & ENGLISH. Sent prepaid.

**An Interesting Case of Healing by Laying on of Hands.** The publication of the following letter in the *Dispatch* will probably cause Mr. Miller to have more patients than he can attend to, as we are thought by some to have done him injustice, we cannot refuse to publish the letter. Mr. Miller will soon realize the wonderful results of advertising. We desire to hear from him a month hence:

**SALEM, ROANOKE COUNTY, VA.** *Editors Dispatch*: In your issue of the 4th you publish the following from the Clinch Valley News: "We received a letter recently from a prominent gentleman of Scott, who is a near neighbor of Miller, in which he pronounces him an unmitigated humbug, and says that if he ever mentioned any wonderful cures his neighbors know nothing of it." This is a very sweeping assertion, for even if Mr. Miller is a humbug there are certainly many mitigating circumstances connected with the practice of his alleged gift of healing. In proof of this fact a simple statement of a case from this town will suffice:

Mr. Peter Whitzell had for upwards of six months suffered from an angry sore on his face, which physicians pronounced a cancerous affection. He claimed that it was so painful as nearly to deprive him of natural rest, and it was apparently deepening and spreading. Like a drowning man, catching at a straw, he visited Mr. Miller at his residence, a month ago, and will give him in substance his own assertion after reading the extract above referred to. I had a personal interview with Mr. Whitezel. He stated: "Well, sir, my face was so painful that sometimes I almost wished for death; for night and day it hurt me terribly, and had done so unceasingly for near six months. So I determined to go and see Mr. Miller. On my arrival he heard my statement, and said: 'Your disease is deemed an incurable one, and of myself I can do nothing for you, but I hope the Lord will heal your sore for you.' He requested me to remain a day with him. I stayed there two nights and a day. During that time he seven different times passed his hands over my face, each time accompanying the act with an earnest prayer that God would heal my disease.

Before leaving, he told me that within a few days the cancerous sore would burst, without giving me any pain, and leave a healthy wound, which would soon heal. It has come to pass precisely as he stated. I have not suffered a particle of pain since my return; I sleep soundly, the sore has subsided, and the wound is rapidly healing, I said Mr. Miller. "What kind of save shall I use?" He replied, "Do nothing at all, except to obey the divine law of cleanliness, wash the sore twice a day with warm water and soap, and God will heal it for you." He put nothing at all upon it. On leaving, I offered payment for his services, but he declined to receive anything. I then handed Mrs. Miller \$3 to pay for the four meals and lodgings of myself and companion; she said \$1.50 would pay her fully, and made me take back the balance. The papers had said that the statement I made to you is certainly a true one. "I know that for six months I was a great sufferer, and my pain daily increasing, and now I am free from pain, and feel sure I am getting well, and I believe Mr. Miller was God's agent to effect my cure." Such was the statement made to me in person by Mr. Whitezel. I will only state that Mr. Whitezel is a reputable citizen, a member of the Methodist Church, and probably about seventy years of age. He may have been deluded, and may be mistaken, but he certainly has faith in the fact that Mr. Miller did him good, and not harm; and in this one case nothing blameless seems to have been done or said by Mr. Miller. It is a curious statement as to alleged healing power, and while slow to recognize such a miraculous gift, it is a fair offset to the sweeping condemnation of the prominent citizen of Scott county.

**FELKNER'S RESOLUTION.** *RICHMOND THEATRE*. THREE NIGHTS AND SATURDAY MATINEE COMMENCING THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH. TWO HOURS AND A HALF OF LAUGHTER. Reappearance of the greatest of all Irish comedians, MR. JOSEPH MURPHY, supported by a company of especially selected artists of recognized ability, including the famous COCKNEY FAVORITE.

MISS M. LOUISA YOUNG. The appearance was within your grasp to elevate your race.

With your white Republican brethren, and John D. with them to pay.

You are expected to be present at the theatre.

Mr. PARKS offered a resolution of thanks to the ministers who have opened the House with prayer. Adopted.

**HUMORISTS.** HE DROPS INTO POETRY.

Mr. ROWE, of Fredericksburg, claimed the floor and read the following, which delighted the House and the visitors very much, judging by the repeated outbursts of applause:

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House be, and is hereby, authorized to issue his warrant to Bayler Thornton for an amount equal to the sum of \$2 per day from January 6, 1860, to March 9, 1860, for services as assistant in the House of Delegates.

It appearing that though Mr. Thornton had been discharging the duties of document clerk he was not appointed by any competent authority, the resolution was rejected.

**AUDITOR'S OFFICE.**

On motion of Mr. TURNER, it was resolved that a committee of three be appointed to make an examination of the books and valuable papers of the Second Auditor's office, and of the general condition of the same, and be empowered to employ two competent clerks to assist in said investigation, which investigation shall commence at once.

It appears from what was stated that there are a great many uncanceled coupons in said office.

**FELKNER'S RESOLUTION.**

Senate joint resolution submitting to the people the RIDDLEBERGER and ROSS HAMILTON bills was laid before the House.

MR. MOFFETT moved a suspension of the rules requiring a reference of the resolution to a committee. The vote resulted—49; nays, 36—not two thirds voted.

Mr. TURNER, of the C. C., J. R. LAMKIN, keeper of Records and Seal, mh 10-1\*.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

On motion of Mr. HANGER, RESOLVED, That the resolution providing for recess at 2<sup>o</sup> o'clock be so far modified as to read that the chair be vacated at 2<sup>o</sup> P. M. and resumed again at 10<sup>o</sup> o'clock P. M.

**RECES.**

On motion of Mr. HANGER, RESOLVED, That the resolution providing for recess at 2<sup>o</sup> o'clock be so far modified as to read that the chair be vacated at 2<sup>o</sup> P. M. and resumed again at 10<sup>o</sup> o'clock P. M.

**SENATE BILLS PASSED.**

To require plaintiffs in the action of ejectment in the counties of Buchanan, Wise, and Dickenson to file their written record evidence before trial.

**INCORPORATE THE ALLEGHENY COAL AND IRON COMPANY.**

**LAW ON THE TABLE.**

**COMMITTEE ON THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE.**

**ALL CITIZENS TROUBLED WITH COUGHS AND COLDS.**

**GENERAL MABONE.** — The Philadelphia Times brings us two extracts of what it calls one of the cleverest satires of the day. The satire is contained in a pamphlet just issued, entitled "The Coming Crown," giving a prophetic pen picture of the coming empire under "His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Ulysses I." It is illustrated with a cut of a crown.

The extracts purport to be from The Court Journal and from the Imperial Standard of 1862. The following will be enjoyed in Virginia:

**MABONE, Marquis of Blue Ridge.—** Wheeling, W. Va., September 30.—Major-General Mabone, now in command of the Army of the Ohio, received from Washington yesterday an imperial decree, announcing his elevation to the peerage as Marquis of Blue Ridge. The noble Marquis, it will be remembered, gained great honors during the earlier days of his Imperial Majesty's reign by enlisting in the cause of the empire the services and influence of many of the best families of Virginia.

**AD.**

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

TUESDAY, March 9, 1860.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 o'clock A. M.—Lieutenant-Governor WALKER in the chair.

House bill to provide compensation for E. H. Fisher, a one-legged Confederate soldier, was passed.

House bill to provide for conveying to the United States the site at Sewell's Point, &c., for the erection of a hospital for quarantine purposes, was passed.

**COMMUTATION FOR SOLDIERS.**

House bill appropriating money for commutation for Virginian soldiers, sailors, and marines who lost limbs or eyes in war was taken up.

Mr. RIDDELEBARGER moved to refer to the Committee on Finance.

The vote resulted—ayes, 34; nays, 19.

Mr. CHAMBERLAYNE, on the part of the House, informed the Senate that the former body had agreed to the amendment to the Senate's joint resolution providing for an adjournment to-night at 11 o'clock.

**DISMISSED.**

Senate bill entitled "An act to authorize the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company to discharge its indebtedness."

**MORE TIME WANTED.**

Mr. FRAZIER (at 2:20) offered a motion reconsidering the order vacating the chair at 2<sup>o</sup> o'clock.

Mr. MUSHBACH moved that the House adjourn, and a recorded vote was ordered.

Result—ayes, 7; nays, 68. So the House refused to adjourn; but the chair was at once vacated.

**NIGHT SESSION.**

The SPEAKER called the House to order at 10 o'clock.

Mr. HANGER moved that the Clerk of the House be authorized to retain the services of one of his clerks thirty days after the close of the session.

The members immediately retired and began the consideration of the FULKERSON resolutions.

**DISMISSED.**

Senate bill entitled "An act to authorize the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company to discharge its indebtedness."

**ANOTHER TURN OF THE SCREW.**

The decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday in several cases involving the constitutionality of the election laws are another stride in the march of our Government towards a consolidated central despotism. The brief statement in our issue of yesterday of the effect or substance of these decisions tells enough to enable every one familiar with the matters in dispute to draw correct conclusions concerning their nature. They provide a way for subjecting even the legislatures of the several States to the supervisory power of Congress, and ultimately of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The court in its opinion quotes as sufficient justification for its decisions the following extract from the Constitution of the United States:

"The times, places, and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the place of choosing senators."

These men spent half of the session in electing officers. Most of the rest of the time was spent in passing a bill to appropriate fourteen millions of dollars of the public debt. In fact, they have done nothing to commend them to the favor of the people of Virginia. If they had stayed longer, they would no doubt have done other evil deeds. The charter of this city would, it is supposed, have been so altered as to offer certain city offices as bribes to discontented white aspirants to place, and the negroes and worst class of whites would have been expected to finish up the job next May at the ballot-box.

The consideration of the commutation bill was resumed, and the bill passed by a vote of ayés, 27, nays, 4—Messrs. HENRY, MAYO, NORTON, and RIDDELEBARGER.

**FROM COMMITTEES.**

Mr. FULKERSON, from the Finance Committee, reported, with a recommendation that it do not pass, "a bill to repeal an act entitled an act to provide a plan for the settlement of the public debt." Placed on the calendar.

**MR. RIDDELEBARGER'S PROTEST.**

Mr. RIDDELEBARGER presented the following protest:

SENATE CHAMBER, March 9, 1860.

Yesterday when the vote was being taken on the plan of the debt bill over the Governor's veto it was informed that four senators were absent, under the impression that the Senate would not be taken until 4 o'clock. I then voted in the negative, in order to move a reconsideration. This motion I made, and the PRESIDENT declared it out of order, indicating a wish, however, as I understood, to have an expression of the sense of the Senate on the question. Whereupon I appealed from the decision of the CHAIR. This appeal was about being voted upon when it was discovered that the Clerk had recorded my vote in the affirmative. The PRESIDENT declared it out of order, indicating a wish, however, as I understood, to have an expression of the sense of the Senate on the question. Whereupon I appealed from the decision of the CHAIR. This appeal was about being voted upon when it was discovered that the Clerk had recorded my vote in the affirmative. 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